

I do is sometimes used superfluously, as, *I do love, I did love; simply I love, or I loved; but this is considered as a vicious mode of speech.*

It is sometimes used emphatically; as,

I do love thee, and when I love thee not,

Chaos is come again.

Shakespeare.

It is frequently joined with a negative; as, *I like her, but I do not love her; I wished him success, but did not help him.*

The Imperative prohibitory is seldom applied in the second person, at least in prose, without the word *do*; as, *Stop him, but do not hurt him; Praise beauty, but do not dote on it.*

Its chief use is in interrogative forms of speech, in which it is used through all the persons; as, *Do I live? Dost thou strike me? Do they rebel? Did I complain? Didst thou love her? Did she die?* So likewise in negative interrogations; *Do I not yet grieve? Did she not die? Do is thus used only in the simple tenses.*

There is another manner of conjugating neuter verbs, which, when it is used, may not improperly denominate them *neuter passives*, as they are inflected according to the passive form by the help of the verb substantive *to be*. They answer nearly to the reciprocal verbs in French; as,

I am risen, surrexi, Latin; Je me suis levé, French.
I was walked out, exieram; Je m'étois promené.

In like manner we commonly express the present tense; as, *I am going, eo. I am grieving, doleo. She is dying, illa moritur. The tempest is raging, furit procella. I am pursuing an enemy, hostem insequor. So the other tenses, as, We were quailing, tremuimus; I have been quailing, I had been quailing, I shall or will be quailing.*

There is another manner of using the active participle, which gives it a passive signification; as, *The grammar is now printing, grammatica jam nunc chartis imprimitur. The brass is forging, æra excoquuntur. This is, in my opinion, a vicious expression, probably corrupted from a phrase more pure, but now somewhat obsolete: The book is a printing, The brass is a forging; a being properly at, and printing and forging verbal nouns signifying action, according to the analogy of this language.*

The indicative and conjunctive moods are by modern writers frequently confounded, or rather the conjunctive is wholly neglected, when some convenience of verification does not invite its revival. It is used among the purer writers after *if, though, ere, before, whether, except, unless, whatsoever, whomsoever*, and words of wishing; as, *Doublets thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not.*

OF IRREGULAR VERBS.

The English verbs were divided by Ben Johnson into four conjugations, without any reason arising from the nature of the language, which has properly but one conjugation, such as has been exemplified; from which all deviations are to be considered as anomalies, which are indeed in our monosyllable Saxon verbs and the verbs derived from them very frequent; but almost all the verbs which have been adopted from other languages, follow the regular form.

Our verbs are observed by Dr. Wallis to be irregular only in the formation of the preterite, and its participle. Indeed, in the scantiness of our conjugations, there is scarcely any other place for irregularity.

The first irregularity, is a slight deviation from the regular form, by rapid utterance or poetical contraction: the last syllable *ed* is often joined with the former by suppression of *e*; as, *lov'd* for *loved*; after *c, ch, sh, f, k, x*, and after the consonants *s, th*, when more strongly pronounced, and sometimes after *m, n, r*, if preceded by a short vowel, *t* is used in pronunciation, but very seldom in writing, rather than *d*; as *plac't, snatch't, fish't, wak't, dwell't, smel't*; for *plac'd, snatch'd, fish'd, wak'd, dwell'd, smel'd*; or placed, *snatched, fished, waked, dwelled, smelled.*

Those words which terminate in *l* or *ll*, or *p*, make their preterite in *t*, even in solemn language; as *crept, felt, dwell't*; sometimes after *x*, *ed* is changed into *t*; as, *wext*: this is not constant.

A long vowel is often changed into a short one; thus, *kept, slept, wept, crept, swept*; from the verbs, *to keep, to sleep, to weep, to creep, to sweep.*

Where *d* or *t* go before, the additional letter *d* or *t*, in this contracted form, coalesce into one letter with the radical *d* or *t*: if *t* were the radical, they coalesce into *t*;

but if *d* were the radical, then into *d* or *t*, as the one or the other letter may be more easily pronounced; as, *read, led, spread, shed, fled, bid, bid, chid, fed, bled, bred, sped, frid, rid*; from the verbs, *to read, to lead, to spread, to feed, to bleed, to bid, to chide, to feed, to bleed, to breed, to speed, to stride, to slide, to ride.* And thus, *cast, hurt, cost, burst, eat, beat, sweat, sit, quit, smit, writ, bit, bit, met, shoot*; from the verbs, *to cast, to hurt, to cost, to burst, to eat, to beat, to sweat, to sit, to quit, to smite, to write, to bite, to bit, to meet, to shoot.* And in like manner, *lent, sent, rent, girt*; from the verbs, *to lend, to send, to rend, to gird.*

The participle preterite or passive is often formed in *en*, instead of *ed*; as *been, taken, given, slain, known*, from the verbs *to be, to take, to give, to slay, to know.*

Many words have two or more participles, as not only *written, bitten, eaten, beaten, hidden, chidden, shooten, chosen, broken*; but likewise *writ, bit, eat, beat, hid, chid, shot, chose, broke*, are promiscuously used in the participle, from the verbs *to write, to bite, to eat, to beat, to hide, to chide, to shoot, to choose, to break*, and many such like.

In the same manner *sown, shewn, becom, mown, laden, laden*, as well as *sow'd, shew'd, beco'd, mow'd, loaded, laden*, from the verbs *to sow, to shew, to becom, to load, or lade.*

Concerning these double participles it is difficult to give any rule; but he shall seldom err who remembers, that when a verb has a participle distinct from its preterite, as *wrote, wrote, written*, that distinct participle is more proper and elegant, as *The book is written*, is better than *The book is wrote*, though *wrote* may be used in poetry.

There are other anomalies in the preterite.

1. *Win, spin, begin, swim, strike, stick, sing, sling, sting, ring, wring, spring, swing, drink, sink, shrink, stink, come, run, find, bind, grind, wind*, both in the preterite imperfect and participle passive, give *won, spun, begun, swum, struck, stuck, sung, slung, stung, rung, wrung, sprung, swung, drunk, sunk, shrink, hung, come, run, found, bound, ground, wound*. And most of them are also formed in the preterite by *a*, as *began, sang, sang, sprang, drank, came, ran*, and some others; but most of these are now obsolete. Some in the participle passive likewise take *en*, as *stricken, strucken, drunken, bounden*.

2. *Fight, teach, reach, seek, beseech, catch, buy, bring, think, work*, make *fought, taught, caught, bought, brought, caught, bought, brought, thought, wrought*. But a great many of these retain likewise the regular form, as *taached, reached, beseeched, catbed, worked*.

3. *Take, shake, forsake, wake, awake, stand, break, speak, bear, swear, tear, weave, cleave, strive, thrive, drive, shine, rise, arise, smite, write, bide, abide, ride, choose, chuse, tread, get, beget, forget, sethse, make* in both preterite and participle took, *forsook, woke, awoke, stood, broke, spoke, bore, shore, swore, tore, wore, wove, clove, strove, throve, drove, shone, rose, arose, smote, wrote, bode, abode, rode, chose, trade, got, begot, forgot, sad*. But we say likewise, *thrive, rise, smit, writ, abid, rid*. In the preterite some are likewise formed by *a*, as *brake, spake, bare, spart, sware, tare, ware, clave, gat, begat, forgot*, and perhaps some others, but more rarely. In the participle passive are many of them formed by *en*, as *taken, shaken, forsaken, broken, spoken, born, shorn, sworn, torn, worn, woven, cloven, thriven, driven, risen, smitten, ridden, chosen, trodden, gotten, begotten, forgotten, sodden*. And many do likewise retain the analogy in both, as *waked, awakened, sheared, weaved, leaved, abided, seedbed*.

4. *Give, bid, sit*, make in the preterite *gave, bade, sate*; in the participle passive, *given, bidden, sitted*; but in both *bid*.

5. *Draw, know, grove, throw, blow, crow* like a cock, *fly, slay, see, by*, make their preterite *drew, knew, grew, threw, blew, crew, flew, slew, saw, lay*; their participles passive by *n, drawn, known, srown, grown, thrown, blown, srown, slain, seen, lien, lain*. Yet from *slee* is made *sled*; from *go*, *went*, from the old *wend*, and the participle *gone*.

Of

OF DERIVATION.

That the English language may be more easily understood, it is necessary to enquire how its derivative words are deduced from their primitives, and how the primitives are borrowed from other languages. In this enquiry I shall sometimes copy Dr. Wallis, and sometimes endeavour to supply his defects, and rectify his errors.

Nouns are derived from verbs.

The thing implied in the verb as done or produced, is commonly either the present of the verb; as, *to love, love*; to fright, a *fright*; to fight, a *fight*; or the preterite of the verb, as, *to strike, I struck or strook, a stroke*.

The action is the same with the participle present, as *loving, fighting, fighting, striking*.

The agent, or person acting, is denoted by the syllable *er* added to the verb, as *lover, fighter, striker*.

Substantives, adjectives, and sometimes other parts of speech, are changed into verbs: in which case the vowel is often lengthened, or the consonant softened; as, *a house, to house*; *brass, to brase*; *glass, to glaze*; *grass, to graze*; *price, to prize*; *breath, to breathe*; *a fish, to fish*; *oyl, to oil*; further, *to further*; forward, *to forward*; hinder, *to hinder*.

Sometimes the termination *en* is added, especially to adjectives; as, *haste, to hasten*; *length, to lengthen*; *strength, to strengthen*; *short, to shorten*; *fast, to fasten*; *white, to whiten*; *black, to blacken*; *hard, to harden*; *soft, to soften*.

From substantives are formed adjectives of plenty, by adding the termination *y*; as, *a house, lousy*; *wealth, wealthy*; *health, healthy*; *might, mighty*; *worth, worthy*; *wit, witty*; *lust, lusty*; *water, watery*; *earth, earthy*; *wood, a wood, woody*; *air, airy*; *a heart, hearty*; *a hand, bandy*.

From substantives are formed adjectives of plenty, by adding the termination *ful*, denoting abundance; as, *joy, joyful*; *fruit, fruitful*; *youth, youthful*; *care, careful*; *use, useful*; *delight, delightful*; *plenty, plentiful*; *help, helpful*.

Sometimes, in almost the same sense, but with some kind of diminution thereof, the termination *some* is added, denoting something, or in some degree; as, *delight, delightsome*; *game, gamesome*; *irk, irksome*; *burden, burdensome*; *trouble, troublesome*; *light, lightsome*; *hand, handsome*; *alone, lonesome*; *toil, toilsome*.

On the contrary, the termination *less* added to substantives, makes adjectives signifying want; as *worthless, witless, heartless, joyless, careless, helpless*. Thus *comfort, comfortless*; *lap, lapless*.

Privation or contrariety is very often denoted by the particle *un* prefixed to many adjectives, or in before words derived from the Latin; as, *pleasant, unpleasant*; *wise, unwise*; *profitable, unprofitable*; *patient, impatient*. Thus *unworthy, unhealty, unfruitful, unuseful*, and many more.

The original English privative is *un*; but as we often borrow from the Latin, or its descendants, words already signifying privation, as *incredulous, impious, indiscreet*, the inseparable particles *in* and *im* have fallen into confusion, from which it is not easy to disentangle them.

Un is prefixed to all words originally English, as *untrue, untruth, unclean, unkindness*.

Un is prefixed to all participles made privative adjectives, as *unfeeling, unassisting, unaided, undelighted, unendured*.

Un ought never to be prefixed to a participle present, to mark a forbearance of action, as *unfighting*; but a privation of habit, as *unfighting*.

Un is prefixed to most substantives which have an English termination, as *unfertileness, unperfectness*, which, if they have borrowed terminations, take in or *im*, as *infertility, imperfection*; *uncivil, incivility*; *unactive, inactivity*.

In borrowing adjectives, if we receive them already compounded, it is usual to retain the particle prefixed, as *indecent, inelegant, improper*; but if we borrow the adjective, and add the privative particle, we commonly prefix *un*, as *unpolite, ungallant*.

The prepositive particles *dis* and *mis*, derived from the *des* and *mes* of the French, signify almost the same as *un*; yet *dis* rather imports contrariety than privation, since it answers to the Latin preposition *de*. *Mis* insinuates some error, and for the most part may be rendered by the Latin words *male* or *perperam*. To like, *to dislike*; honour, *dishonour*; to honour, to grace, *to dishonour*, to disgrace; to design, *to disdesign*; chance, hap, *mischance*.

misdeed; to take, *to mishake*; deed, *misdeed*; to use, *to misuse*; to employ, *to misemploy*; to apply, *to misapply*.

Words derived from Latin written with *de* or *dis* retain the same signification, as *distinguish, distinguish*; *detract, detract*; *detract*; *defame, defame*; *detain, detain*.

The termination *ly* added to substantives, and sometimes to adjectives, forms adjectives that import some kind of similitude or agreement, being formed by contraction of *like* or *like*.

A giant, *giantly*; *giantlike*; earth, *earthly*; heaven, *heavenly*; world, *worldly*; God, *godly*; good, *goodly*.

The same termination *ly* added to adjectives, forms adverbs of like signification; as, *beautiful, beautifully*; *sweet, sweetly*; that is, *in a beautiful manner*; *with some degree of sweetness*.

The termination *ish* added to adjectives, imports diminution; and added to substantives, imports similitude or tendency to a character; as, *green, greenish*; *white, whitish*; *soft, softish*; *a thief, thievish*; *a wolf, wolfish*; *a child, childish*.

We have forms of diminutives in substantives, though not frequent; as, *a hill, a hillock*; *a cock, a cockrel*; *a pike, a pickrel*; this is a French termination: *a goose, a gosling*; this is a German termination: *a lamb, a lambkin*; *a chick, a chicken*; *a man, a manikin*; *a pipe, a pipkin*; and thus *Halkin*, whence the patronimick *Harokins, Wilkin, Thomkin*, and others.

Yet still there is another form of diminution among the English, by lessening the sound itself, especially of vowels; as there is a form of augmenting them by enlarging, or even lengthening it; and that sometimes not so much by change of the letters, as of their pronunciation; as, *sup, sip, soap, sap, sipper*, where, besides the extension of the vowel, there is added the French termination *et, top, tip, spit, spout, babe, baby, booby, bureau*; great pronounced long, especially if with a stronger sound, *great*; little pronounced long, *little*; *ting, tang, tong*, imports a succession of smaller and then greater sounds; and so in *jingle, jangle, tingle, tangle*, and many other made words.

Much however of this is arbitrary and fanciful, depending wholly on oral utterance, and therefore scarcely worthy the notice of Wallis.

Of concrete adjectives are made abstract substantives, by adding the termination *ness*; and a few in *hood* or *head*, noting character or qualities; as, *white, whiteness*; *hard, hardness*; *great, greatness*; *skillful, skillfulness, unskillfulness*; *goodhead, monhood, maidenhead, widowhood, knighthood, priesthood, likelihood, falsehood*.

There are other abstracts, partly derived from adjectives, and partly from verbs, which are formed by the addition of the termination *th*, a small change being sometimes made; as, *long, length*; *strong, strength*; *broad, wide, breadth, width*; *deep, depth*; *true, truth*; *warm, warmth*; *dear, dearth*; *flow, flowth*; *merry, mirth*; *heal, health*; *well, weal, wealth*; *dry, drought*; *young, youth*; and so *moon, month*.

Like these are some words derived from verbs; *dy, death*; *till, tilth*; *grow, growth*; *mow, later mowth*, after *mowth*; commonly spoken and written later *matb*, after *matb*; *steal, stealth*; *bear, birth*; *rue, ruth*; and probably *earth* from *to ear* or *plow*; *fly, flight*; *weigh, weight*; *fray, fright*; *to draw, draught*.

These should rather be written *flightb, frightb*, only that custom prevails, lest *b* should be twice repeated.

The same form retain *saith, sight, wreath, swath, broth, froth, breath, sooth, worth, light, weight*, and the like, whose primitives are either entirely obsolete, or seldom occur. Perhaps they are derived from *sey* or *sey, spy, wry, wreak, brew, mow, fry, bray, say, work*.

Some ending in *ship* imply an office, employment, or condition; as, *kingship, wardship, guardianship, partnership, stewardship, headship, lordship*.

Thus *worship*, that is, *worthship*; whence *worshipful*, to *worship*.

Some few ending in *dom, rick, wick*, do especially denote dominion, at least state or condition; as *kingdom, dukedom, earldom, principedom, popedom, christendom, freedom, wisdom, whoredom, bishoprick, bailiwick*.

Ment and *age* are plainly French terminations, and are of the same import with us as among them, scarcely ever occurring, except in words derived from the French, as *commandment, usage*.

There